



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS  
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

**Monday, October 17, 2016**

**10:00 AM**

**Present:** Commissioner Genevra Berger, Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Maria Brenes, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Wendy Garen, Commissioner Sydney Kamlager, Commissioner John Kim, Commissioner Liz Seipel, Vice Chair Jacquelyn McCroskey, Vice Chair Wendy B. Smith and Chair Sunny Kang

**Absent:** Commissioner Candace Cooper and Commissioner Janet Teague

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Call to Order. (16-5080)

**Chair Kang called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.**

2. Introduction of meeting attendees. (16-5082)

**Members of the public were invited to introduce themselves.**

3. Approval of the minutes from the October 3, 2016 meeting. (16-5081)

**On motion of Vice Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioner Seipel (Commissioners Biondi, Cooper, Kamlager, and Teague being absent), this item was approved.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

## **II. REPORTS**

### **4. Chair's Report. (16-5083)**

**Chair Kang reported the following:**

- **It is time to begin planning the Commission's annual holiday luncheon, which will take place after the December 5, 2016 meeting, and a volunteer is needed. Commissioner Kim volunteered to lead the planning; and**
- **Commissioners should review the proposed 2017 Commission meeting calendar and note that not all meetings will fall on the first and third Mondays of the month. Meetings can also be held at other locations, including individual Commissioners' organizations. Commissioners were asked to advise Tamara of any concerns regarding the proposed agenda, which will be agendized for approval at the November 7, 2016 meeting.**

### **5. Report by Phillip Browning, Director, Department of Children and Family Services. (16-5084)**

**Philip L. Browning, Director of Children and Family Services (DCFS) reported the following:**

- **Staff are continuing to focus on Continuum Care Reform (CCR), which will be implemented soon;**
- **DCFS will be piloting a new assessment tool called Treatment Outcome Package (TOP) for nine (9) months. This tool is a questionnaire filled out by staff, caregivers, and anyone who knows the child; completion is a 5 to 10-minute process. Aldo Marin, DCFS, will provide a fact sheet to the Commission;**
- **The Board approved a coaching program for social workers; however, DCFS will need more than the current 1,900 Children's Social Workers (CSW) to implement the program;**
- **A recent news article featured three (3) foster youth who were honored by the White House for a short film they made; additional information will be forwarded to the Commission;**
- **DCFS currently has 1,000 CSWs that are Child and Family Team certified;**

- A new Department of Mental Health (DMH) Director was hired; the selection of a Probation Department (PD) Director is still ongoing;
- The roll out of the LEADER Replacement System (LRS), which will include foster care eligibility, is ongoing. The entire system will have about 500,000 cases, and foster care eligibility comprises about 10% of the system. The migration will take place over 18 months. This will be resource for the entire state; and
- The new child welfare management system, Child Welfare System-New System (CSW-NS), will begin with the Hotline.

### **III. PRESENTATIONS**

6. Presentation of the 2016-17 Commission Nomination Slate and Election of Officers: (16-5092)

**Chair Kang introduced the candidates for the 2016-17 Election of Officers and invited them to speak:**

- Vice Chair McCroskey thanked everyone and stated that the Commission is on a great trajectory and values what that Commission has done and will do.
- Commissioner Seipel indicated that she has worked with children and youth for many years; however, she is relatively new to the Commission, and has learned a lot and wants to take the opportunity to give back to the community.
- Vice Chair Smith thanked the Commission for the opportunity and stated that the Commission is facing many important issues and changes, and she is looking forward to supporting the work of the Commission.

**There being no further nominations, on motion of Commissioner Kim, seconded by Commissioner Berger (Commissioners Cooper and Teague being absent), there being no objection, the Commission approved the 2016-17 Commission for Children and Families Slate of Officers.**

**Ayes:** 11 - Commissioner Genevra Berger, Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Maria Brenes, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Wendy Garen, Commissioner Sydney Kamlager, Commissioner John Kim, Commissioner Liz Seipel, Vice Chair Jacquelyn McCroskey, Vice Chair Wendy B. Smith and Chair Sunny Kang

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Candace Cooper and Commissioner Janet Teague

**Commissioners submitted their ballots and the item was tabled for later in the meeting, allowing for the tabulation of ballots.**

**Later in the meeting, after the tabulation of ballots for Chair and Vice Chairs, Chair Kang reported that Commissioner McCroskey was elected Chair and Commissioners Seipel and Smith were elected Vice Chairs for the 2016-17 term of office.**

**Therefore, on motion of Commissioner Garen, seconded by Commissioner Brenes (Commissioners Cooper and Teague being absent), duly carried by the following vote, the Commission approved the 2016-17 Election of Officers.**

**Ayes:** 11 - Commissioner Genevra Berger, Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Maria Brenes, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Wendy Garen, Commissioner Sydney Kamlager, Commissioner John Kim, Commissioner Liz Seipel, Vice Chair Jacquelyn McCroskey, Vice Chair Wendy B. Smith and Chair Sunny Kang

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Candace Cooper and Commissioner Janet Teague

**7. Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Transitional Shelter Care and Pilot Program**

- Judge Michael Nash, Executive Director, Office of Child Protection
- Maricruz Trevino, Director, Transitional Shelter Care, DCFS
- Michael Ross, Assistant Regional Administrator, Transitional Shelter Care, DCFS
- Peyanka Armstrong, Children's Social Worker, Accelerated Placement Team, DCFS

- Kanchana Tate, Clinical Program Manager I, Department of Mental Health, DMH (16-5085)

**Vice Chair Wendy B. Smith introduced the panel of presenters from DCFS and DMH, and reported that Judge Michael Nash was unable to attend the meeting. Maricruz Trevino, Director, Transitional Shelter Care (TSC), reviewed associated handouts and reported the following:**

- **Ms. Trevino thanked Vice Chair Wendy B. Smith and the Commission for the opportunity to present;**
- **In response to the recent closure of Children and Youth Welcome Centers, the TSC program was implemented and includes 68 beds for children and youth. The following agencies are contracted with the TSC program:**
  - o **Junior Blind of America – the only facility accepting children, ages zero to five;**
  - o **David and Margaret Youth Family Services-accepts young girls, ages 12-17 and non-minor dependent young women, ages 18-20;**
  - o **Five Acres – accepts young girls, ages 6-14; and**
  - o **Hathaway Sycamores - accepts young boys, ages 6-17.**
- **Ms. Trevino provided an overview of statistical data, including TSC entries, length of stay, entries by office, entries by type, entries by supervisorial district, and barriers to placement. She reported that the total number of TSC entries have decreased.**

**In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Trevino responded with the following:**

- **The numbers have decreased due to several factors, including the Director's directive to DCFS regional administrators that they ensure that children are placed in TSCs as a last resort;**
- **TSC capacity was exceeded on only one occasion;**
- **The number of placements with relatives is increasing; and**

- Data on TSC entries are recorded on daily basis, and a report is generated and submitted to the State of California on a monthly basis; co-locating DCFS staff at TSC facilities has been helpful in addressing roadblocks and building trust between agencies and DCFS.

The Commission requested to be added to the distribution list for the data report.

- With regard to age as a barrier to placement, Commissioners also noted that specifying the age ranges of children would provide useful information; and
- Commissioner McCroskey asked about a method of identifying child care as a barrier to placement in the tracking.

Michael Ross, Assistant Regional Administrator, Transitional Shelter Care, DCFS, reported the following:

- Prior to the opening of the TSC's, approximately 20-30 children and youth consistently presented with severe needs that served as barriers to placement; DCFS worked in collaboration with other departments to find a solution;
- Mr. Ross credited the success of the program to the commitment and consistency of the teams involved in the youths' daily lives;
- There are 18 youth currently in the pilot program, two are in the extremely difficult to place category; There are plans to expand the pilot slowly, and three more youth will be added; and
- There are three (3) CSWs serving as case coordinators, providing intensive and individualized services; case coordinators can have a caseload of up to eight youth.

Kanchana Tate, Clinical Program Manager I, DMH, reported that the pilot includes three (3) DMH mental health teams, and assessments are conducted to assist with ensuring that the children and youth are provided with the mental health services they need.

Mr. Ross reported that communication among partners is effective and shared an example of DMH asking that the DCFS case coordinators remain involved with cases as long as the DMH team is in place.

**Peyanka Armstrong, Children's Social Worker, Accelerated Placement Team, DCFS, shared an example of how the program can be adapted to fit the specific needs of these youth. She discussed an extremely complex case involving a youth with severe mental health needs, who had more than 35 placements, including a placement in a specialized facility in Florida; and, Ms. Armstrong emphasized the importance of building rapport with the youth, creating firm boundaries, utilizing all the services available, being consistent, and committed.**

**Ms. Trevino added that true collaboration is taking place; the TSC and Pilot Program work group is diverse and has a standing meeting with Judge Nash every two weeks; the pilot program is helping all departments involved build capacity.**

**In response to a question, Ms. Trevino stated that the Commission "absolutely" played a role in the development of the TSC program and pilot project, through its work with the Welcome Centers and ongoing efforts.**

**Mr. Ross commented that collaboration with other sections within DCFS and other County departments is crucial; the Commercial Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) unit will be added to the team; Vice Chair Wendy B. Smith is part of the work group and commended the teams' level of commitment.**

**Diana Iglesias, DCFS, added that the pilot program is a strong model and has made a tremendous impact in identifying placements for youth with high needs;**

**Commissioner Curry thanked the presenters and commented that sustainability of the Pilot Program is important.**

**Commissioner Garen added that the pilot program demonstrates the County's progress with breaking down silos.**

**Commissioner Kang noted the positive cultural shift with involved departments resulting from the pilot program and the Commission's contributions.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

**8. “To Foster Change” - Public Media Initiative**

- Andy Russell, Chief Executive Officer, PBS SoCal
- Jamie Myers, Chief Operating Officer, PBS SoCal (16-5086)

**Mr. Russell, Chief Executive Officer, PBS SoCal, presented the following:**

- **PBS SoCal’s signal reaches 18 million viewers; three (3) million weekly viewership, and 60%, are within Los Angeles County;**
- **PBS SoCal hosts over 100 community events, 75% are held in the County with three (3) community councils; and**
- **The “To Foster Change” initiative is a three (3) year effort.**

**Jamie Myers, Chief Operating Officer, PBS SoCal, presented the following:**

- **PBS SoCal spent nine (9) months meeting with 60 agencies and organizations with child welfare experience, to learn how public media can help moving forward;**
- **The “To Foster Change Initiative” includes several components:**
  - o **Part 1 – Dialogue and listen - The first community based convening associated with the initiative will be held on October 26, 2016. This will be an opportunity for cross sector dialogue with over 100 attendees including speakers and breakout sessions. The meeting will not be opened to the public, but community partners are welcome to attend;**
  - o **Part 2 – Content creation. Layer approach – Ideally, a three (3) part documentary with community guided topics; Website launch to host digital story telling; PBS SoCal will broadcast public service announcements and ask the general audience to volunteer; and**
  - o **Part 3 – Community engagement. Core work. - Hold events, asking the public to connect and find ways to get involved. The goal is to develop a youth work force training in summit format, with one-on-one mentors; an additional goal is to have youths’ voice and stories be part of the content.**



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**In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Myers added that there are 365 stations, in which context can be shared and outreach be conducted.**

**Ms. Myers also stated they are already connected with Foster More and Alliance for Children's Rights, and hope to collaborate as much as possible.**

**Vice Chair Smith indicated that she will be attending their event next week.**

**Tamara Hunter, Executive Director, advised the Commission that all Commissioners received invitations several weeks ago in their folders containing meeting materials.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

#### **IV. DISCUSSIONS**

**9.     Updates from the Special Populations Committee**

- Commissioner Wendy Smith: Psychotropic Medication Work Group, Specialized Care Increment D - Rate Program and Core Practice Model
- Commissioner Liz Seipel: DMH System Leadership Team (SLT) (16-5087)

**Vice Chair Smith provide a brief update on the Psychotropic Medication Work Group. The work group members include, DCFS, DMH, Public Health, Probation Department, attorneys, and Judges. The workgroup was formed in response to a Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection recommendation. Vice Chair Smith stated that there are many new regulations and more information that can be provided to the judges before issuing new psychotropic medications to children.**

**There was no discussion of the Specialized Care Increment D Rate Program, Core Practice Model or SLT.**

#### **V. MISCELLANEOUS**

**10.    Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on item(s) of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (16-5089)**

**No members of the public addressed the Commission.**

11. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (16-5090)

**There were no matters presented.**

12. Adjournment (16-5094)

**The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.**